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Bill Mincher Interviews Senator Joseph McCarthy

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Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: Bill Mincher of WLBZ interviews Senator Joseph McCarthy

Date: November 15, 1953

Recording number: D 16.64; CD 17, track 3

Length of recording: 02:17

[transcript begins]

MINCHER: Senator McCarthy, the Scientists' Committee on Loyalty and Security of the Federation of American Scientists says that your inquiries into alleged spying at the Fort Monmouth Radar Laboratories has caused, and this is a quote, "a very real and immediate damage to the Defense Program." What is your view on their view?

MCCARTHY: Well, Bill, all I can say is that I've been down there and I think the good, loyal Americans down there want to get rid of the communists and potential espionage agents. I do think we are demoralizing the Communist Party. I hope to continue. I don't think we're demoralizing any good Americans.

MINCHER: Well, the group says that morale among the professional staff is very poor, according to reports, and that a high percentage of scientists who are not implicated in the present investigation are now planning to seek employment elsewhere. Any comment on that?

MCCARTHY: Bill, I can only comment by asking a question. Why would a good, loyal American have his morale ruined because you dig out communist bias?

MINCHER: United Press wire said this morning that your investigation of General Electric now involves Lynn, Massachusetts. That's close to home, here. Have you any plans for any communist investigations in Maine?

MCCARTHY: Two of our investigators have been up at Lynn for some time.

MINCHER: And how about the Maine plant?

MCCARTHY: I frankly couldn't tell you at this time, Bill. We've had complaints about communist infiltration in so many plants that are supplying the government with top secret secrets and confidential material, we cannot investigate all of them. Our staff is limited, but we hope to go into a few of the worst places.

MINCHER: And, uh, someone this morning was asking me, what is your view on veteran's benefits and the changes and so forth that have been made recently?

MCCARTHY: Well, Bill, about all I have done so far as work on veteran's benefits is concerned myself, besides voting for the various benefits, was the work I did in drafting the Housing Act of 1948 which liberalized the loans to veterans and made it easy for them to buy a home. Beyond that, I'm not on the Veteran's Committee. About all I can do is vote for the bills when they come out.

MINCHER: Thank you very much, Senator McCarthy.

[transcript ends]

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